

EPI Update for Friday, May 29, 2015
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Avian influenza update**
- **Chikungunya update**
- **Food safety at the farmer's market**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Avian influenza update

Newly affected farms in Iowa continue to be identified, and workers exposed to avian influenza continue to be monitored for symptoms and recommended to take antiviral prophylaxis if they meet exposure and time criteria. No human infections have been reported in Iowa or other affected states. For more information about avian influenza, visit: www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm

Chikungunya update

As the summer holiday season starts and traveling increases, IDPH is encouraging medical providers to remind patients traveling to the Caribbean and other tropical areas to protect themselves from mosquito bites and to consider chikungunya in patients with acute onset of fever and polyarthralgias who recently returned from affected areas.

This week, two requests for chikungunya testing have been received for patients with recent travel history to the Mexico and the Caribbean. Chikungunya virus RT-PCR testing and IgM/IgG antibody assays are available at CDC via SHL. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected cases of chikungunya to IDPH, and to coordinate testing.

In 2014, four cases of chikungunya were reported to IDPH, and local transmission was identified in several areas of the U.S., including Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. No confirmed cases have been reported in Iowa yet this year, but 146 chikungunya cases have been reported from 28 U.S states this year. For more information on chikungunya, visit www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/

Food safety at the farmer's market

Farmer Farmer's markets throughout Iowa are a great place to purchase local fruits, vegetables, and other foods. There are several important food safety tips to follow to ensure your visit to the farmer's market is safe:

- If buying foods that have been prepared or processed (cut fruit, salsa, guacamole etc.) make sure that they have been keep cool (refrigerator temperatures).
- refrigerate any prepared or processed foods within two hours of buying at a farmer's market
- If you need to travel a distance after shopping at a farmer's market, bring an insulated bag or cooler to keep meats, prepared and processed foods (cut or peeled fruits and veggies) cool on the way home

- check labels on milk, cheese, juice, and cider to ensure they have been pasteurized
- make sure meat and eggs have been kept at refrigerator temperatures before you purchase them at a farmer's market
- keep meat separate from other purchased foods to avoid cross-contamination of harmful bacteria

For more information about food safety at farmer's markets, visit:

www.foodsafety.gov/blog/farmers_market.html

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

2015 Iowa HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Conference is June 18-19, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Des Moines – Airport/Convention Center. To view the brochure, visit:

www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=9AA1CF35-5A94-4EB2-B9CE-93C0CEF8B403

Pathways to Safer Opioid Use, Web-based training geared towards physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and public health professionals, on how to communicate the safe use of opioids to manage chronic pain. For more information about the training, visit:

health.gov/hcq/training.asp#pathways

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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